

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the pending claims and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection in view of the amended claims. As presently amended, the pending claims all require a visual indicator or visual indication means that provides a user with a quick and easy way to determine whether the safety needle of the present invention has been previously used to inject a patient. The structural features of the invention as presently claimed are not found in the references cited by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants submit that the presently pending claims contain a combination of features and elements not found in the cited references or obvious in view of these cited documents and are therefore patentable.

Applicants also respectfully submit that the claims as presently amended conform with the statutory requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112 and are not objectionable in view of U.S. P.T.O. rules. In particular, all essential elements of the invention are included in the amended claims. In the previous Office Action the Examiner asserted that the manner in which the needle is mounted in the hub is an essential element of the invention. Applicants respectfully disagree. It is well settled that specification need not disclose every possible method of making the claimed invention; it need only disclose the best method known to the applicants at the time they made their invention. *Continental Paper Bag Co. v. Eastern Paper Bag Co.* 210 U.S 405, 418. Moreover, applicants are entitled to claim various undisclosed embodiments of their invention and need not disclose every possible embodiment in their specification. *See id*; *Smith v. Snow* 294 U.S 1 (1935) . Nor are applicants claims limited to only those embodiments described in the specification. *See* 210 U.S 418; 294 U.S. 1.

Here, Applicants' specification clearly shows a needle fastened to a needle hub. That the specification discloses one method of fastening the needle to the hub does not preclude Applicants from claiming other structures wherein the needle is fastened to the hub. *See Panduit Corp. v. Stahl Bros. Fibre Works, Inc.* 298 F.Supp 435 (W.D. Mich 1969) *aff'd* 439 F.33d 221 (6th Cir. 1970). As the tower is not essential to fastening the needle to the hub, it need not be recited in the claims.


Conclusion

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that all claims are in condition for allowance. Early action to that end is respectfully requested. The Examiner should feel free to contact the Attorney for the Applicants if there are any questions concerning this amendment or application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees in connection with this application and to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 14-1447.

Respectfully submitted,

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